

Appl. No. 09/708,492

JAN 17 2006

Claim 1 recites among other features, *a control unit configured to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said communication serial ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the interrogation of the network links*. Claim 1 further recites *the control unit being configured to determine whether it is time to interrogate the network links*. Based on at least the reasons set forth herein, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection set forth in the Office Action and the basis thereof.

The Office Action appears to maintain the basis of the rejection set forth in the prior Office Action, in addition to relying on Buyukkoc. The Office Action asserts that Dai teaches a multiple port unit adapted for coupling one or more computers to multiple peripheral devices over a network (Dai: col. 4, lines 38-43, Figure 1), said multiple port unit comprising plural network ports (Dai: col. 2, lines 25-33; col. 4, lines 38-43), each of said network ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a computer over a respective network link (Dai: col. 2, lines 25-33; col. 4, lines 38-43; where Ethernet ports are network ports); and a control unit configured to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the interrogation of the network links (Dai: col. 2, lines 48-59).

The Office Action further asserts that Dai does not explicitly state serial ports. However, the Office Action asserts that Moore teaches plural communication serial ports (Moore: col. 3, lines 42-57), each of said communication serial ports being configured to couple the multiple port unit to a peripheral device (Moore: col. 3, lines 58-65). The Office Action also asserts that Moore further teaches the serial console line for each server has the capability to transmit to and receive from a serial port with another device (Moore: col. 2, lines 40-45).

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The Office Action then concludes it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to create the multiple port packet switch as taught by Dai while employing the use of serial ports as taught by Moore in order to transmit and receive with a serial port and other devices (Moore: col. 2, lines 40-45). The Office Action further proposes modifying such combination with Buyukkoc, as discussed below.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above assertions of the Office Action and the proposed modification of Dai with the teachings of Moore. Applicant submits that Dai fails to teach the features of claim 1 including a control unit configured to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said communication serial ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the interrogation of the network links. Instead, Dai teaches routing controller 230 itself is a device connected to the cell bus 220; and that internally, it only takes the address information cells for searching its routing table for the destination port(s) and to learn the source address information for table maintenance within its routing table 235"(column 9, lines 22-27).

Applicant notes in particular that the Office Action alleges that Dai teaches a control unit configured to interrogate the network links and to communicatively couple said ports to a selected one of said network ports based on the interrogation of the network links (Dai: col. 2, lines 48-59). This assertion is traversed.

In such disclosure of Dai of column 2, Dai describes that: coupled to the cell bus is a switch packet routing controller which monitors cell traffic on the cell bus. Dai further teaches that for each packet that is received, the switch packet routing controller analyzes the packet to determine which ports, if any, the packet is to be output from. The switch packet routing controller propagates a control cell on the cell bus directing each of the packet processing units how to "route" each packet being assembled thereby. Dai further teaches that the switch packet

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routing controller also has associated therewith a routing table memory which collects

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